AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-24 (cancelled).

25 (previously presented). Method for the treatment of Onychoschizia in a patient in need of such treatment which method comprises administering to said patient a topical composition comprising:

a) at least one herb extract from the genus Equisetum, and

b) at least one film forming agent.

26 (previously presented). Method according to claim 25, wherein said composition comprises c) at least one physiologically acceptable carrier.

27 (previously presented). Method according to claim 25, wherein said composition comprises d) at least one sulfur donor.

28 (currently amended). Method according to claim 25, wherein component a) is selected from the group consisting of an alcoholic herb extract and a hydroalcoholic herb extract.

29 (previously presented). Method according to claim 28, wherein said alcoholic

extract is a glycolic extract.

30-47 (canceled).

48 (previously presented). Method according to claim 28 wherein said extract is a dry herb extract.

49 (currently amended). Method according to claim 25 wherein component a) is selected from the group consisting of *Equisetum arvense* and *Equisetum hiemale*.

50 (previously presented). Method according to claim 49, wherein component a) is a glycolic extract of *Equisetum arvense*.

51 (previously presented). Method according to claim 25, wherein component b) is a water-soluble film-forming agent.

52 (previously presented). Method according to claim 51, wherein said water-soluble film-forming agent is a derivative of chitosan.

53 (currently amended). Method according to claim 52, wherein said derivative of chitosan is selected from the group consisting of hydroxyalkyl chitosans and carboxyalkyl chitosans.

54 (previously presented). Method according to claim 53, wherein said hydroxyalkyl chitosans are selected from chitosans which are derivatized with C_{1-6} alkyl groups possessing 1 to 3 hydroxy groups.

55 (previously presented). Method according to claim 54, wherein said hydroxyalkyl chitosan is hydroxypropyl chitosan.

56 (previously presented). Method according to claim 53, wherein said carboxyalkyl chitosans are selected from chitosans which are derivatized with C_{1-6} alkyl groups possessing 1 to 3 hydroxy groups.

57 (previously presented). Method according to claim 53, wherein said carboxyalkyl chitosan is carboxymethyl chitosan.

58 (previously presented). Method according to claim 26, wherein component c) is water or a mixture of water with at least one co-solvent.

59 (previously presented). Method according to claim 58, wherein said co-solvent is an alcohol.

60 (previously presented). Method according to claim 58, wherein said co-solvent is a branched or linear alcohol having 1 to 3 hydroxy groups and 2 to 6 carbon atoms.

61 (currently amended). Method according to claim 60, wherein said alcohol is selected from the group consisting of ethanol, 1-propanol and isopropanol.

62 (currently amended). Method according to claim 27, wherein component d) is selected from the group consisting of sulphated amino acids, derivatives thereof, 1-methionine, 1-cysteine, 1-cystine, taurine, 4-thiazolidinecarboxylic acid and methylsulphonylmethane.

63 (currently amended). Method according to claim 25, wherein said composition comprises a compound selected from the group consisting of penetration enhancers, sedimentation retarders, chelating agents, antioxidants, silicates, aroma substances, wetting agents, lanolin derivates, light stabilizers and antibacterial substances.

64 (currently amended). Method according to claim 25, wherein said composition comprises an additional active agent selected from the group consisting of antimycotic agents, antibiotic agents, anti-inflammatory agents, antiseptic agents and local anaesthetic agents.

65 (previously presented). Method according to claim 25, wherein component a) is present in an amount of 0.1 to 15 % by weight of the total composition.

66 (previously presented). Method according to claim 25, wherein component b) is present in an amount of 0.1 to 10% by weight of the total composition.

67 (previously presented). Method according to claim 26, wherein component c) is present in an amount of 40 to 99.8% by weight of the total composition.

68 (previously presented). Method according to claim 67, wherein component c) contains water in an amount of 15 to 70 % by weight of component c).

69 (previously presented). Method according to claim 27, wherein component d) is present in an amount from 0.1 to 20% by weight of the total composition.

70 (currently amended). Method according to claim 25, wherein said composition consists essentially ~~consists~~ of:

a) at least one herb extract from the genus Equisetum,

b) at least one film forming agent,

c) at least one physiologically acceptable carrier,

d) at least one sulfur donor.

71 (previously presented). Method according to claim 25, wherein said topical composition is applied to a nail.

72 (previously presented). Method according to claim 65, wherein component a)

is present in an amount of 0.3 to 15 % by weight of the total composition.

73 (previously presented). Method according to claim 65, wherein component a) is present in an amount of 0.5 to 10 % by weight of the total composition.

74 (previously presented). Method according to claim 66, wherein component b) is present in an amount of 0.3 to 8 % by weight of the total composition.

75 (previously presented). Method according to claim 66, wherein component b) is present in an amount of 0.5 to 5 % by weight of the total composition.

76 (previously presented). Method according to claim 67, wherein component c) is present in an amount of 60 to 99 % by weight of the total composition.

77 (previously presented). Method according to claim 67, wherein component c) is present in an amount of 80 to 95 % by weight of the total composition.

78 (previously presented). Method according to claim 68, wherein the water content in component c) is 30 to 65 % by weight of component c).

79 (previously presented). Method according to claim 69, wherein component d) is present in an amount from 0.2 to 10 % by weight of the total composition.